

Use the sample essay template as a model to draft your own. [The sample outline on page 2 of this handout, based upon *Of Mice and Men*, intentionally lacks the thoroughness needed on yours. All bolded points need to be expanded upon.] Please follow the guidelines below:

1. Introduction/Thesis
 - ✓ TYPED OUT IN FULL
 - ✓ Start general, move to specific
 - ✓ Hook
 - ✓ Background info (including novel title and author)
 - ✓ Thesis (underlined)
2. Body: Do the following for each argument (a minimum of three)
 - ✓ Write out each topic sentence
 - ✓ Note the incident/situation in the novel from which you will take your example
 - ✓ Write out the chosen quotes in full. Include the correct quotation and page number.
 - Ex.: Catherine declares, “What you touch at present you may have; but my soul will be on that hill-top before you lay hands on me again. I don’t want you, Edgar: I’m past wanting you. Return to your books” (117).
 - Note that the end quote comes before the parenthesis and the end punctuation comes after.
 - ✓ Explain quote and how it helps thesis
3. Conclusion
 - ✓ TYPED IN FULL
 - ✓ Restate thesis
 - ✓ Recap arguments
 - ✓ Thought-provoking concluding statement

Continue reading on for an example of an outline. The sample outline is based on Of Mice and Men but will work to indicate how you should craft your Wuthering Heights outline. Please note: bolded elements will be provided in full; write out the topic sentences and quotes completely.

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I. Introduction/Thesis:

A. Misfits have always been a part of society, though existing on the fringe rather than fitting into the mainstream. The term suggests such people are different from most, perhaps due to a handicap, a certain behavior, or a belief. Regardless of the reason, misfits are still a part of society and can either be treated cruelly by unthinking, selfish individuals or with sympathy by compassionate people. Steinbeck, in his novel *Of Mice and Men*, evokes great sympathy for his characters by depicting them as alienated, isolated misfits in our society.

II. Body

A. **Topic Sentence for argument #1:** Natural Limitations

1. Identify incident/situation: Lennie's mental handicap
 - a) **Quote from novel** showing Lennie's difficulties due to his handicap
 - b) Explanation of quote relating to the reader sympathizing with Lennie's character
2. Candy's Age
 - a) **Quote from novel** showing Candy's fears of aging (nowhere to go/losing job)
 - b) Explanation of quote relating to sympathy for Candy

B. **Topic Sentence** for Argument #2: Prejudice

1. Identify incident/situation to reveal: Crooks is black; no one will associate with him
 - a) **Quote from novel** showing Crooks' isolation due to color
 - b) Explanation of quote relating to sympathy b/c of prejudice
2. Lennie – Everyone laughs at him
 - a) **Quote from novel** showing others' cruel reaction to him
 - b) Explanation of quote relating to sympathy b/c of prejudice

C. **Topic Sentence** for Argument #3: Cruel Interventions of Fate

1. Identify incident/situation: Lennie kills Curley's wife unintentionally
 - a) **Quote from novel** illustrating how Lennie acted impulsively, couldn't help himself
 - b) Explanation of quote relating to sympathy b/c Lennie couldn't help his reaction

III. Conclusion

A. John Steinbeck masterfully manipulates the reader into feeling sympathy for his characters. None of them can control the circumstances which cause them to become misfits. Natural limitations, prejudices, and cruel twists of fate all combine to stack the odds against the characters' living successful lives. The novel's cast of misfits, like those on the fringe of society in our world today, deserve the sympathy and compassion of those around them.